13: Lehmann E-5 (1939)1951 FN17 Ngonde FN17
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and other duties applicable to a girl after marriage. The practical instruction takes place in or before a special hut in the village under the leadership of the abasepago (sosepago). The girl is admonished by the sosepago to obey her parents without any delay, to perform the commands of her mother immediately, e. g. to clean the hut, and especially to show obedience when guests are present. Should the mother blame her daughter unjustly, she should not reply. (The girl had been blamed in the earlier discussion that she had not swept the hut when her mother required her to do it). Then her duties and conduct towards her future husband were inculcated. As a wife she must never accept anything from the hands of her husband without kneeling and stretching out both hands, and turning away her face with eyes cast down. Also as a wife she must not hold her head up

Some of the drummers.

when she is addressed by a man. As a wife she must be anxious to prepare her husband's meal always at the right time, that means, it has to be ready when her husband returns from the field. If she sees her husband coming from the field, then she has to go to meet him, and take his hatchet from him. Should her husband scold her, she is not to reply; but she may ask her neighbours for help. It is one of her duties to take care of the regular cleaning of the hut[36]. The ashes must always be removed by her from the fireplace. If there are only a few ashes on the fireplace she must remove them with her hands[37].

[36] The place near the house where the sweepings are thrown down is called uvuteplilo.

[37] Cf. Mackenzie, p. 91, who refers to such moral instructions connected with puberty customs, probably at Karonga; cf. Fülleborn, p. 388 (Nygondo plural).